in the IT events or mounted trade delegations are—Brazil, Venezuela and Argentina in the LAC region; The Netherlands, Italy, Germany and UK in Europe; Japan, China and Vietnam.

A study on export potential of IT Enabled Services in North America was also conducted and based on the recommendations, necessary steps are being taken to boost exports. To study the latest techniques and developments in the Call Center industry, which is another potential area, Council has also sponsored a delegation to Chicago coinciding with the 13th International Call Center Management Conference and Exposition.

Similarly, to promote Outsourcing from India, ESC organized an INDIASOFT pavilion at the IT Offshore Outsourcing Expo and Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands during 26-27 June 2001, and is preparing for INDIASOFT 2002 to be held at New Delhi during February 20-22, 2002. Three international conferences on contemporary themes will also be organized at the event.

3. National Association of Software Services and Companies: Participation at major overseas IT events e.g. Comdex, CeBIT, GITEX etc.

Exposure of Children to Internet

3434. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an undesirable exposure of children to the Internet;

(b) if so, whether any solution to this problem has been found; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Internet is an immense source of information and knowledge. However, there are certain sites on the internet, the exposure of which is undesirable for children.

(b) and (c) While providing an ocean of information and knowledge, Internet is a seamlessnetwork of networks with no single point control. It is not technically possible to completely prevent access to any site in the Internet.

Indian IT Professionals returning from US

3435. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of IT professionals are returning India from US;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how many of them have returned so far during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Due to current slow-down in the economy many companies in the US are cutting down costs and laying off employees. Some US Companies, who earlier opted for on-site work are now converting these into offshore assignments on cost considerations. However, no precise data is available regarding the number of IT professionals who have returned for this reasons. As per NASSCOM's estimate about 1000 IT professionals may have returned.

Code red virus in Computers

3436. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the 'Code Red virus' that may affect computers;

(b) if so, what is its likely impact; and

(c) the precautionary measures proposed to be taken to save computers from the virus in Government establishments?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Centre for IT Security, set up by Ministry of Information Technology (MIT) for serving as Computer Emergency Response Team, had already sent necessary alerts to all its clients even before this worm became a menace.

(b) The Code Red Worm may affect some of the Network Service Providing sub-systems. The desktops may be affected indirectly in terms of slower/denial of Internet Access.

(c) The necessary remedial patches to prevent the spread of this worm had already been installed in the Government establishments. Necessary instructions to mitigate the effects of this menace have also been issued to other users.

Cyber Crime Laws

3437. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item,